

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [37] with the following amended paragraph:

The apparatus and method for multiplexing a special resource of the IN-IP will be described with reference to Figures 3 - 6. The special resource management block 210 observes a state change of an error occurrence within special resources of the modules (1 ~ N+M) (S1). This is accomplished in the following way. Under the control of the special resource management block 210, the main processor ~~200~~220 periodically transmits a special resource state check signal to each module (1 ~ N+M). Each module (1 ~ N+M) receiving the special resource state check signal transmits a special resource state information message, illustrated by Figure 5, to the main processor 220. And, the main processor 220 transmits the received special resource state information message to the special resource management block 210.

Please replace paragraph [38] with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 5, the special resource state information message is constructed with special information number information, indicating the number of special resources of a pertinent module, and a special resource state bit map, indicating a state of each special resource. The bit map contains one byte for each of the corresponding module's special resources. Each block has a state value from the set 0, 1, 2, 3. When a state value is 0, a pertinent special resource is operating normally. When a state value is 1, the pertinent special resource is in the

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error occurrence state. When a state value is 2, the pertinent special resource is ~~operating~~  
~~normally in isolation~~. When a state value is 3, it indicates the restoration of the pertinent special  
resource.